



LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

# Ask SHIP

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Sarah Reimmuth

**Q: How do I know if I qualify for “Extra Help” paying for my Medicare prescription costs? Did the qualifications change from 2008?**

The Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) program helps pay for a portion of Part D prescription drug plan costs, including premiums, deductibles and copayments. Depending on your income and assets, you may qualify for the full subsidy or a partial subsidy.

If you have limited income and resources, you might qualify for help to pay for some health care and prescription drug costs. You automatically qualify for “extra help” if you have Medicare and meet one of these conditions:

- You have full Medicaid coverage.
- You get help from your state Medicaid program paying your Part B premiums (belong to a Medicare Savings Program).
- You get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

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Benefit Parameters		2009
Deductible		\$295
Initial Coverage Limit		\$2700
Out-of-Pocket Threshold		\$4350
Total Covered Drug Spend at OOP Threshold		\$6153.75
Minimum Cost-Sharing in Catastrophic Coverage		\$2.40/\$6.00
LIS Copayments		2009
Institutionalized		\$0
Up to or at 100% FPL		\$1.10/\$6.00
Other LIS		\$2.40/\$6.00
Partial LIS Deductible/Cost-Sharing		\$60/15%

Resource Limits	
Full Subsidy	Partial Subsidy
\$8,100 Single	\$12,510 Single
\$12,910 Married	\$25,010 Married

New Income Limits	
Full Subsidy	Partial Subsidy
\$14,620 Single (\$14,860 with the \$20 a month disregard added)	\$16,245 Single (\$16,485 with the \$20 a month disregard added)
\$19,670 Married (\$19,910 with the \$20 a month disregard added)	\$21,855 Married (\$22,095 with the \$20 a month disregard added)

SHIP is a free, unbiased counseling program provided by the Indiana State Department of Insurance. For assistance, call your local SHIP site to make an appointment or call the state office at 1-800-452-4800 to obtain a list of local SHIP sites.

Yes, the qualifications for LIS have changed in 2009. Now to qualify for full low-income subsidy, the resource limit is \$8,100 or \$12,910 if you are married. To qualify for partial low-income subsidy, the resource limit is \$12,510 or \$25,010 if you are married.

When determining if you qualify for the low-income subsidy, \$1,500 per person in resources are excluded from consideration if you indicate that you expect to use some of your resources for burial expenses.

If you qualify for “extra help” in 2009, and you join a Medicare drug plan, you will get the following:

- Help paying your Medicare drug plan’s monthly premium. Depending on your income and resources and your plan’s premium, you may pay a reduced premium or no premium for a basic plan. For an enhanced plan (a plan that may cover more drugs and generally has a higher monthly premium), you must pay more for the extra coverage.
- Help paying any yearly deductible.
- Help paying coinsurance and copayments for prescription drugs that are on your plan’s formulary (list of covered drugs). You generally pay all costs for drugs that aren’t on your plan’s formulary.

If you didn’t automatically qualify for “extra help,” you can apply by:

- Calling Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to apply by phone or to get a paper application. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.
- Visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) to apply online.
- Applying at your State Medical Assistance (Medicaid) office. Call 1-800-MEDICARE and say “Medicaid” to get their telephone number, or visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

